



Minnesota Geographic Board.
Records.

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Quil Corresp.

March 9, 1953

Senator Philip Duff
State Capitol
St. Paul 1, Minnesota

Dear Senator Duff:

I am enclosing a copy of the Geographic Board's rules for procedure for changing names of lakes and streams, which I mentioned to you on the telephone Friday.

I think that the secretarial work of the board was placed with the Historical Society because we have the information about origins of place names, etc. Actually the Society has many requests for information about place names from people who do not know that the Geographic Board exists. Answering these requests is part of the routine work of our reference department.

I hope that the Board can meet soon and take care of the outstanding petitions.

If you wish any further information, please do not hesitate to call me.

Sincerely yours,

Associate Editor

MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Saint Paul

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January 24, 1956

Mr. Philip P. Mason, Archivist
Michigan Historical Commission
Lansing 13, Michigan

Dear Mr. Mason:

I am sorry that I have been so slow in answering your letter of January 4, but it has been so long since I supervised the Minnesota place names project that I found it necessary to go over some of the records to refresh my memory.

We have no printed materials on the subject, which was dropped for lack of funds before it was completed.

The purpose of the Minnesota project was not primarily to gather information for a publication on Minnesota place names, although such a publication might have materialized eventually if funds had been available. Its main purpose was to provide records for the Minnesota Geographic Board on which it could base its decisions.

Five WPA workers under my supervision constituted the personnel of the project. For their use we had a large number of sets of 5" x 8" paper slips mimeographed -- one set for references used; one for villages; one for cities; one for townships; one for lakes; one for streams; one for all other natural features, such as waterfalls, islands, mountains, hills, peninsulas, bays, etc.; and one for all other cultural features, such as dams, forts, parks, Indian reservations, etc. I am enclosing a sample of each.

Each worker was assigned a book, map, or other reference, and for each place name mentioned in it he filled out the proper slip with whatever information he found about the name. When he finished one book or map, he was given another. The completed slips filled out by all the workers were filed alphabetically under counties, thus bringing together all the slips on each name. The information on all the slips covering each name was then typed on a 5" x 8" printed card, and these final cards -- one for each place name -- were then filed alphabetically under counties. I am enclosing samples of the filled-in printed cards.

You will note that in most cases the space after "Approved name" has been left blank. It is filled in only after a name has been approved by the United States Board on Geographic Names or by the Minnesota Geographic Board. If it is an original decision of the national board, it is typed in red. If it is a decision of the state board, it is typed in black and preceded by a red asterisk, which in turn is preceded by a black asterisk

when the state board's decision has been approved by the board of commissioners of the county in which the feature is located. The space after "Name in use" is filled in by the name which most of the sources, or the most dependable sources consulted, used. In the space under "Names" at the left of the card are listed the various other names used, and cross references for these names are typed on plain cards and filed in their proper alphabetical places.

You ask what sources we used for finding information on place names, and whether we relied on personal reminiscences or memoirs. Some of the sources we used may not have their counterparts in Michigan, and Michigan may have others that are not available in Minnesota. It is important to have the decisions on your state's place names made by the United States Board on Geographic Names, which are used on all government maps and other publications. Henry Gannett's The Origin of Certain Place Names in the United States (U.S. Geological Survey, Government Printing Office, Washington, 1902) is helpful for the origin of names.

Since local usage and the length of time during which a name has been in use are important criteria in determining the name we use in our files, we have relied to some extent on personal reminiscences and memoirs, state and county histories, newspapers, and accounts of early explorers and travelers. One of the most useful sources for Minnesota names, especially for their origins, is Warren Upham's Minnesota Geographic Names, a volume of the Minnesota Historical Collections.

Maps were an important source for the Minnesota project. We used the maps issued by the U.S. Geological Survey, the soil surveys of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, U.S. Forest Service maps, and maps issued by various state departments, such as the Railroad Commission, the Department of Drainage and Waters, the Highway Department, the Conservation Department, etc. County atlases, county road maps, and railroad land maps were also used. A set of the large blueprint sheets made by the Highway Department as a base for its state map was one of our most valuable sources.

A Water Resources Index issued by the State Department of Drainage and Waters and a Gazetteer of Meandered Lakes published by the Conservation Department were valuable for information on lakes. Post office lists and a compendium of village laws were useful for information about towns.

I hope that this information will prove useful to you. If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to write me.

Sincerely yours,

Mary W. Berthel
Associate Editor

MWB/b

March 27, 1956

Mr. P. J. McCauley
Minnesota Department of Highways
1246 University Avenue
St. Paul 4, Minnesota

Dear Mr. McCauley:

I have found the following information on Lake Shetek and the Joseph R. Brown State Memorial Wayside, which you asked for in our telephone conversation a few days ago.

"Shetek," which is a Chippewa Indian word meaning "pelican," has been spelled with an "s" by most authorities for a long time. Joseph N. Nicollet, who explored the region in 1838, spelled it "Shetek" in his Report Intended to Illustrate the Hydrographical Basis of the Upper Mississippi River (26 Congress, 2 session, Senate Documents, no. 237), which was published as long ago as 1843. The name has appeared in a few publications as "Lake Chetek," but the most reliable authorities have always spelled it with an "s." The spelling of Indian names always presents a problem, because the Indians had no written language and white people spelled Indian names as they sounded, and very often many different spellings appeared for the same feature. It is the policy of the State Geographic Board to retain spellings that have been established by long use. No decision on Lake Shetek has been made by the U.S. Board on Geographical Names or the Minnesota State Geographic Board.

As to the Joseph R. Brown State Memorial Wayside, there is no doubt that it was named for Joseph R., not Josiah, Brown. I have been unable to find a Josiah Brown in any of the several sources that I have consulted. The legislative act establishing the wayside, or park, in 1937 states definitely that it was named for Joseph R. Brown. (I am enclosing a copy of the act.)

Joseph Renshaw Brown was one of the best known and one of the most influential men in early Minnesota history, and the wayside named for him includes the ruins of his home near Sacred Heart. He was born in Harford County, Maryland, in 1805, and came to Minnesota at the age of fourteen as a drummer boy with the troops that built Fort Snelling. Later he became a trader with the Sioux Indians.

For a time he published the Minnesota Pioneer in St. Paul and later the Henderson Democrat. He was secretary of the Minnesota Territorial Council in 1849-51, a member of the Council in 1854-55 and of the House in 1857, and a member of the State Constitutional Convention in 1857. Brown County was named for him.

The Minnesota Historical Society has a wealth of material about Brown and his part in Minnesota's history.

I hope the above information will prove useful to you. If I can help you further, please let me know.

Sincerely yours,

Mrs. Mary W. Berthel
Associate Editor

Enclosure

MWB/b

From Minnesota Laws, extra session, 1937, chapter 87

An act designating a certain tract of land in Renville County upon which is located the home of Joseph R. Brown as a state park to be known as the Joseph R. Brown Memorial Park and authorizing the state auditor to accept a conveyance of said land from the owners thereof, and appropriating \$500 to reconstruct and repair the buildings and grounds in such state park.

WHEREAS, Renville County has within its boundaries one of the most important historical sites in the State of Minnesota, the remnants of the Joseph R. Brown home; and

WHEREAS, Joseph R. Brown was one of the outstanding citizens of the State of Minnesota and the County of Renville, and was instrumental in establishing this section of the United States as a territory and later on as a State; and

WHEREAS, in August, 1882 (this should read 1862), there was fought along the Minnesota River valley, a battle with the Indians of great historical interest in which soldiers and pioneer citizens heroically fighting against overwhelming odds, laid down their lives and lost their property; and

WHEREAS, said home, by reason of its natural beauty and advantageous location, is eminently suitable for a shrine in that section of the state; and

WHEREAS, the owners of three acres of land more or less upon which the said Joseph R. Brown home is located have dedicated the same as a public park known as the Joseph R. Brown Memorial Park and have caused a plat thereof to be placed on file in the office of the register of deeds of Renville County; now therefore

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Minnesota:

Section 1. Joseph R. Brown memorial park established.-- That said land upon which is located the home of the said Joseph R. Brown is designated as a state park to be known as the Joseph R. Brown Memorial Park. The state auditor is hereby authorized and directed to accept on behalf of the state a deed to said land so dedicated as such Joseph R. Brown Memorial Park.

Section 2. Appropriation.--The sum of \$500.00 is hereby appropriated out of the funds in the state treasury not otherwise appropriated for the purpose of reconstructing, repairing and improving the buildings and grounds of said Joseph R. Brown Memorial Park.

Approved July 23, 1937.

December 4, 1956

Mr. P. J. McCauley
Minnesota Highway Department
1246 University Avenue
St. Paul, Minnesota

Dear Mr. McCauley:

Enclosed are the minutes of the Geographic Board meeting of November 28 together with a formal notification for your department of the changes approved by the board. I would greatly appreciate it if you would see that this information reaches the members of the highway department who would be concerned.

As you requested, I am also sending Mr. Hoffmann a copy of the minutes and carbons of correspondence notifying various agencies of the board's decisions last Tuesday.

It was a pleasure to meet you on that occasion.

Sincerely,

Mrs. June D. Holmquist
Acting Secretary
Minnesota Geographic Board
Minnesota Historical Society

JDH:rs
enc.

December 4, 1956

Commissioner M. J. Hoffmann
Minnesota Department of Highways
1246 University Avenue
St. Paul, Minnesota

Dear Mr. Hoffmann:

Mr. McCauley, who ably represented you at the meeting of the State Geographic Board on November 28, requested that I send you a copy of the minutes of that meeting. It is enclosed, together with carbons of correspondence notifying various agencies of the Board's decisions.

We are sorry you could not meet with us last week. I have heard from Mrs. Barthel of your long interest in and association with the Board.

Sincerely,

Mrs. June D. Holmquist
Acting Secretary
Minnesota Geographic Board
Minnesota Historical Society

JDH:rs
enc.

December 4, 1956

Commissioner George Selke
Department of Conservation
356 State Office Building
St. Paul, Minnesota

Dear Dr. Selke:

Enclosed are the minutes of the Geographic Board meeting of November 28, a copy of the rules sent out by the United States Geographic Board which you requested, carbon copies of correspondence notifying various agencies of the board's decisions of last Tuesday, and a sample petition for your files.

Enclosed, too, is formal notification for your department of the changes approved by the board. I would greatly appreciate it if you would see that this information reaches the members of the Conservation department who would be concerned.

I shall see that carbons of future correspondence relating to the Geographic Board are sent to you. It was a pleasure to meet you at the recent meeting.

Sincerely,

Mrs. June D. Holmquist
Acting Secretary
Minnesota Geographic Board
Minnesota Historical Society

JDH:rs
enc.

Office Memorandum •

DEPARTMENT Conservation - Administration

TO : Mr. Russell Fridley, Director, Historical Society DATE: December 4, 1956
FROM : George A. Selke, Commissioner
SUBJECT: Lists of Geographic Names Recommendations for Lake and Cook Counties

Enclosed herewith are three copies each of the Geographic Names Recommendations, Superior National Forest, Lake and Cook Counties.

One copy of each for your files, and one copy of each to be sent to the Chairman of the Board of County Commissioners of Lake and Cook Counties.

Thank you for taking care of this for me.

G.A.S.





STATE OF MINNESOTA
DEPARTMENT OF HIGHWAYS
1246 UNIVERSITY AVENUE
ST. PAUL 4

December 6, 1956

Mrs. June Holmquist, Acting Secretary
Minnesota Geographic Board
Minnesota Historical Society Building
Capitol Plaza
St. Paul, Minnesota

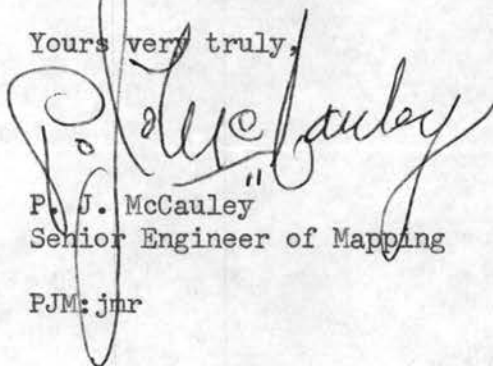
Re: Minnesota Geographic Board

My Dear Mrs. Holmquist:

This will acknowledge receipt of your letter of December 4, 1956,
with the minutes and all of the Geographic Board data which you
kindly prepared for us.

We will endeavor to co-operate to the fullest extent.

Yours very truly,



P. J. McCauley
Senior Engineer of Mapping

PJM:jmr



THE GEORGE F. CRAM COMPANY, INC.
730 EAST WASHINGTON STREET • INDIANAPOLIS 7, INDIANA
TELEPHONE MEIrose 5-5564

December 7, 1956



Mr. Russell W. Fridley, Secretary
Minnesota Geographic Board
Minnesota Historical Society
St. Paul 1, Minnesota

Dear Mr. Fridley:

Thank you very much for your letter of December 4 regarding the action of your Board, November 28, 1956, in approving the names of Robertson Lake and Evergreen Lake.

The information will be filed so as to be available for future revisions of our publications.

Sincerely,

THE GEORGE F. CRAM COMPANY, INC.

W. P. LeSure
W. P. LeSure, Chief Draftsman

WPL:P



STATE OF MINNESOTA

Office Memorandum •

DEPARTMENT Minnesota Statehood Centennial
Commission

TO : Russell Fridley

DATE: December 10, 1956

FROM : Thomas H. Swain

SUBJECT:



Our suggestion to George Selke which was subsequently referred to the Minnesota Geographic Board concerning the renaming of Mud Lakes was based not on the fact that there was simply too much duplication, but more on the basis that any lake named Mud is placing a negative thought in the minds of anyone who hears or sees it. We simply suggest that all of the Mud Lakes could be renamed to something more romantic, fascinating and attractive.

We agree that the many Long, Rice, Bass, Twin, Round, Clear, Pine and Cedar Lakes don't evidence much imagination. Lakes with distinctive names are better remembered and collectively do more to help sell our state. I suppose there are many problems involved, but just hauling out a Latin, Spanish, or French dictionary along with an array of Indian names that haven't heretofore been used and start passing them around to the currently existing Long, Round, Clear, etc. Lakes could solve the problem in a hurry.

Again, the most important feature we feel is the immediate solution of new names for the present Mud Lakes. Simply from the standpoint of semantics, the words mud and lake together are incongruous and, in addition, distasteful. If you can't come up with anything better, let's change them all from Mud to Clear. Then at least we'll have eliminated one category.

THS

THS/cm

January 5, 1957

Mr. Egan
Division of Waters
8 State Office Building

Dear Mr. Egan:

Enclosed is a listing of the decisions of the Minnesota Geographic Board to December 31, 1956, which you requested a few weeks ago. This list is complete insofar as we can judge from our records. I hope that it will be useful to you.

Sincerely,

Mrs. June D. Holmquist
Acting Secretary
Minnesota Geographic Board

October 15, 1957

To: Minnesota Department of Highways

This is to inform you that the names of the two small lakes listed below were officially approved by the Minnesota State Geographic Board on August 15, 1957:

Hennepin County, village of Richfield, Highway 35 and 66th Street E. Change Mud Lake to Legion Lake.

St. Louis County, Township 54 North, Range 16 West, Section 22, change Lake 22 to Pioneer Lake. Not Antila Lake.

Mrs. June D. Holmquist
Deputy to Russell W. Fridley,
Secretary, Minnesota Geographic Board
Minnesota Historical Society
St. Paul 1, Minnesota

These / also approved by USBGN Oct 10, 1957

Same letter to Minnesota Conservation Department

October 15, 1957

Commissioner George Selke
Department of Conservation
356 State Office Building
St. Paul 1, Minnesota

Dear Mr. Selke:

Enclosed you will find (1) a copy of the minutes of the last meeting of the Minnesota Geographic Board; and (2) formal notification for your department of the changes approved by the board.

In accordance with the Board's action at that meeting, petitions from the U.S. Forest Service have been forwarded to the boards of commissioners in Cook and Lake County requesting changes in the names of 102 lakes in Superior National Forest (Groups A & B). Copies of these petitions (3 and 4) are enclosed. If approved by the local boards, they will come before the State Board for action at its next meeting.

Also enclosed is (5) a list (Group C) containing the names of lakes in Cook and Lake County, submitted by the Forest Service, but ineligible because of the 40-year usage limitation in the law governing the Geographic Board's activities. At its last meeting, the Board voted that these lists be held for further study.

In the near future, we will be sending you still another list of "problem" names submitted by the Forest Service for change. The Board voted that this group be circulated among appropriate members of the staffs of the Conservation Department, the Highway Department, and the Historical Society for comment.

Sincerely,

Mrs. June D. Holmquist
Deputy to Russell W. Fridley,
Secretary, Minnesota Geographic Board
Minnesota Historical Society
St. Paul 1, Minnesota

JDH:pns

Same letter to:
Mr. P. J. McCauley
Minnesota Highway Department
Division of Traffic and Planning
555 Wabasha
St. Paul 1, Minnesota

October 15, 1957

Mr. M. J. Hoffmann
Minnesota Department of Highways
1246 University Avenue
St. Paul, Minnesota

Dear Mr. Hoffmann:

Enclosed you will find a copy of the minutes of the last meeting of the Minnesota Geographic Board.

In accordance with the Board's action at that meeting, petitions from the U.S. Forest Service have been forwarded to the boards of commissioners in Cook and Lake County requesting changes in the names of 102 lakes in Superior National Forest (Groups A & B). Copies of these petitions are enclosed. If approved by the local boards, they will come before the State Board for action at its next meeting.

In the near future, we will be sending you a list of "problem" names submitted by the Forest Service for change. The Board voted that this group be circulated among appropriate members of the staffs of the Conservation Department, the Highway Department, and the Historical Society for comment.

Sincerely,

Mrs. June D. Holmquist
Deputy to Russell W. Fridley,
Secretary, Minnesota Geographic Board
Minnesota Historical Society
St. Paul 1, Minnesota

JDH:pns

October 18, 1957

Commissioner George Selke
Department of Conservation
356 State Office Building
St. Paul 1, Minnesota

Dear Mr. Selke:

Two copies of the list of "problem" names submitted to the Minnesota Geographic Board by the U.S. Forest Service are enclosed. At its last meeting, the Board voted that this list be circulated among competent members of the staffs of the Conservation Department, the Highway Department, and the Historical Society, and that recommendations concerning these problems be made at the next meeting.

Would you see that this material reaches the proper members of your department?

Sincerely,

Mrs. June D. Holmquist
Deputy to Russell W. Fridley,
Secretary, Minnesota Geographic Board
Minnesota Historical Society
St. Paul 1, Minnesota

JDH:pns

Enclosure

Same letter to:

Mr. P. J. McCauley
Minnesota Highway Department
Division of Traffic and Planning
555 Wabasha Street
St. Paul 1, Minnesota

January 16, 1958

To: Minnesota Department of Conservation

This is to inform you that the names of 83 lakes in Lake County and 22 lakes in Cook County (shown on the attached lists) were officially approved by the Minnesota State Geographic Board on December 31, 1957.

The following names in St. Louis and Hennepin County were also approved:

Ed Shave Lake, in Township 65 North, Range 13 West, Sections 25 and 36, St. Louis County (Not Second Lake). So named October 28, 1957, by the St. Louis County Board of Commissioners upon petition by local residents, who wished to honor Mr. Shave for his efforts to conserve and develop Minnesota's resources.

Holy Name Lake in Township 118 N. (Medina), Range 23 W., Sections 23, 24, Hennepin County (Not Hausmanns, Hausmans, Hausman's, nor Hausman Lake). So named August 7, 1951, by the Hennepin County Board of Commissioners upon petition by local residents, who wished the change because the Holy Name Church and School are located on the shores of this lake and have been there since the community was settled.

Mrs. June D. Holmquist
Deputy to Russell W. Fridley,
Secretary, Minnesota Geographic Board
Minnesota Historical Society
St. Paul 1, Minnesota

JDH:pns

Enclosures 2

*Original
to Council
with Board*

January 16, 1958

Commissioner George Selke
Department of Conservation
356 State Office Building
St. Paul 1, Minnesota

Dear Mr. Selke:

Enclosed you will find (1) a copy of the minutes of the last meeting of the Minnesota Geographic Board; and (2) formal notification for your department of the changes approved by the board.

I have taken care of Mrs. Turpela's letter (carbon enclosed) and I am working on Mr. Fackler's request to name a lake for Dr. Surber. Hence you will be hearing from me again in the near future.

Sincerely,

Mrs. June D. Holmquist
Deputy to Russell W. Fridley,
Secretary, Minnesota Geographic Board
Minnesota Historical Society
St. Paul 1, Minnesota

JDH:pm

Enclosures 3

January 16, 1958

Mr. P. J. McCauley
Minnesota Highway Department
Traffic and Planning Division
555 Wabasha Street
St. Paul, Minnesota

Dear Mr. McCauley:

At the last meeting of the Geographic Board you gave me the enclosed memos from Mr. Grout and from your division regarding a number of names in Cook County. I have checked these against the State Geographic Board records. Here are the results:

It should be Gabemichigami (as your division indicates) not Gabemichigama as Mr. Grout spells it. The U.S. Board on Geographic Names has ruled on this.

West Elbow -- This is shown as Elbow in all the State Board's records. A change to West Elbow would not be official unless it were brought before the Board for action.

Bingoshick -- The weight of evidence in the State Board's records would favor spelling this with an "o". But no decision has been made to declare this official.

Caribou -- The Board's records show this as Caribou Lake. No decision has been made on it.

West Pine -- Appears as Pine Lake in the Board's records. The Pine Lake in T. 62 N., R 3 W was changed to Crescent Lake by the Board on December 31, 1957.

Spruce -- This is incorrect. The name Trout Lake for this body of water is firmly entrenched. Since it has been in use more than 40 years, the State Board has no authority to change it under the present law.

Meeds -- This should be spelled Meeds not Meads Lake. It was named for a man called Meeds.

Otter Lake is in T. 64 N., R 3 East, section 25, 26, 35, 36, and would seem to be the correct name for the body of water referred to here. Otto Lake is in T 64 N, R 2 West, Sec. 19, 20, 21, 28, 29, 30.

West Swamp -- Shown in Board's records as Swamp Lake.

Flour -- The State Board has ruled that Flour is the correct spelling for this name.

Stony -- The name of this lake was changed to Assinika by the State Board on December 31, 1957.

January 16, 1958

Trap -- This is correct. The Trap Lake in T 64 N, R. 2 W, Sec. 31 was changed to Wamihigan Lake by the State Board on December 31, 1957.

Clearwater -- The weight of evidence in the State Board's records favors Clearwater, rather than Emby, as the name of this lake. No decision had been made. The Clearwater lake mentioned in T 62 N, R. 1 E, Secs. 19, 20 was changed to Binagami by the State Board on December 31, 1957.

Long Caribou, Little Caribou -- appears as Caribou in the Board's records. No decision has been made on it.

Moosehorn Lake -- This is the correct name as it appears in the Board's records.

I shall be sending you a complete list of the decisions approved by the State Board at its last meeting in a day or two.

Sincerely,

Mrs. June D. Holmquist
Deputy to Russell W. Fridley,
Secretary, Minnesota Geographic Board
Minnesota Historical Society
St. Paul 1, Minnesota

JDH:pns

Enclosures 2

January 16, 1958

Mr. P. J. McCauley
Minnesota Highway Department
Division of Traffic and Planning
555 Wabasha Street
St. Paul, Minnesota

Dear Mr. McCauley:

Enclosed you will find (1) a copy of the minutes of the last meeting of the Minnesota Geographic Board; and (2) formal notification for your department of the changes approved by the board.

Sincerely,

Mrs. June D. Holmquist
Deputy to Russell W. Fridley,
Secretary, Minnesota Geographic Board
Minnesota Historical Society
St. Paul 1, Minnesota

JH:pm

Enclosures 2

January 16, 1958

To: Minnesota Department of Highways

This is to inform you that the names of 83 lakes in Lake County and 22 lakes in Cook County (shown on the attached lists) were officially approved by the Minnesota State Geographic Board on December 31, 1957.

The following names in St. Louis and Hennepin County were also approved:

Ed Shave Lake, in Township 65 North, Range 13 West, Sections 25 and 36, St. Louis County (Not Second Lake). So named October 28, 1957, by the St. Louis County Board of Commissioners upon petition by local residents, who wished to honor Mr. Shave for his efforts to conserve and develop Minnesota's resources.

Holy Name Lake in Township 118 N. (Medina), Range 23 W., Sections 23, 24, Hennepin County (Not Hausmanns, Hausmans, Hausman's, nor Hausman Lake). So named August 7, 1951, by the Hennepin County Board of Commissioners upon petition by local residents, who wished the change because the Holy Name Church and School are located on the shores of this lake and have been there since the community was settled.

Mrs. June D. Holmquist
Deputy to Russell W. Fridley,
Secretary, Minnesota Geographic Board
Minnesota Historical Society
St. Paul 1, Minnesota

JDH:pns

Enclosures 2

January 16, 1958

Mr. L. P. Zimmerman, Commissioner
Minnesota Department of Highways
1246 University Avenue
St. Paul, Minnesota

Attention: Mr. P. J. McCauley

Dear Mr. Zimmerman:

Enclosed for your information is a copy of the minutes of the December meeting of the Minnesota Geographic Board, at which you were, as usual, ably represented by Mr. McCauley.

Mrs. Berthel, former deputy secretary of the Minnesota Geographic Board, tells me that your department was most generous some years ago in supplying the cards upon which the Board's records are kept. That supply is now exhausted, and additional cards are needed if we are to keep up with the changes that are approved.

I am enclosing a sample of the type of card in use. A new supply of 3,000 of these cards should take care of the problem for some years to come. The Board, as you know, is completely without funds. Would it be possible for your department to provide these cards as it has in the past?

Your co-operation in this matter will be greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

Mrs. June D. Holmquist
Deputy to Russell W. Fridley,
Secretary, Minnesota Geographic Board
Minnesota Historical Society
St. Paul 1, Minnesota

JDH:pas

Enclosures 2

June

General

Minnesota Historical Society
Administrative

Dr. George A. Selke, Chairman, Minnesota
Geographic Board
Russell W. Fridley

March 11, 1958

The attached editorial from the Minneapolis Sunday Tribune and the comment from Time magazine emphasize the need for the State Geographic Board to take a stand against the Department of Business Development's scheme to name lakes at its own discretion after prominent native sons for the purposes of promotion and publicity.

The Department of Business Development states that this program is strictly of a promotional nature and that the names it gives to unnamed lakes are not to be taken too seriously, or to be regarded as permanent. This process of naming lakes to serve the cause of promotion and publicity, which apparently has the approval of the Governor's office, is carried on independently of the State Geographic Board.

I would raise the following objections to this program:

1. It is very doubtful that any person or agency other than the State Geographic Board has legal authority to give names to unnamed lakes in Minnesota. This is one of the major reasons why the Board was created in the first place.
2. All persons or agencies in the state should follow the legally prescribed procedures set up to name geographic features. How can ordinary citizens be expected to adhere to these procedures when a state agency ignores them?
3. Since the names are not meant to be permanent, they serve only to confuse the public and those concerned with up-to-date lake names, such as map makers. These names have no official validity unless they are approved by the Minnesota Geographic Board and the U. S. Board on Geographic Names.
4. The names of lakes should be carefully chosen and based on sound reasons -- physical features, flora and fauna in the area, and should take into account the historical association and traditions of the area concerned. The Board was in part created by the legislature to avoid careless and indiscriminate naming of the state's geographic features.
5. This rather cavalier method of naming lakes hardly serves the long-range cause of promoting Minnesota; instead, it makes the state look somewhat ridiculous, as the comments in the Sunday Tribune and Time magazine indicate.

March 11, 1958

6. It is a rather involved and time-consuming task to establish for certain that a seemingly unnamed body of water does not in fact have a locally accepted name. Unless checked through the Board's records and those in the State Division of Waters, it is possible that the lakes named by the Department of Business Development will turn out to have names that are in local use. This, too, is part of the reason for the State Board's establishment.

It seems to me that this matter should be given serious consideration in the near future -- and certainly no later than the June meeting of the Geographic Board.

RWF:dg

Mpls. Sunday Tribune
Feb. 16, 1958

Land of Bylined Waters

From Time

MINNESOTANS, long inured to outlandish place names, got six more this week when Gov. Orville L. (for Lothrop) Freeman conferred the names of famed Minnesotan-born (or claimed) newsmen upon previously unchristened lakes.

Picked for immortality among the state's 10,000 or more lakes: the New York Times Pulitzer Prizewinning Harrison E. (for Evans) Salisbury; Look's Editorial Director Daniel D. (for Danforth) Mich; Humorist (Rally Round the Flag, Boys!) Max Shulman; Sig Mickelson, CBS vice president in charge of news; Reader's Digest Editor (and founder) DeWitt Wallace; and CBS's chief Washington correspondent, North Dakota-born A. (for Arnold) Eric Sevareid, onetime reporter for the Minneapolis Journal and Minneapolis Star.

The newsman-named lakes will keep cartographic company with such sky-blue waters as Winnibigoshish (meaning "miserable, wretched, dirty water"), Ge-Be-On-P-Que, and the lake named in 1956 for R. Nelson Wishbone Harris, the Minnesota-born founder of Toni Co.

Have a Lake, Mister

ONE HUNDRED YEARS from now a lonely wanderer in Minnesota may pause by the shores of beautiful Lake Eric Sevareid and ask: "Who in heck was Eric Sevareid?"

If the lonely wanderer can find a torn and faded copy of this editorial, he will have his answer. Eric Sevareid is one of the estimable gentlemen who have recently had Minnesota lakes named after them by Gov. Freeman. A radio and television reporter, Sevareid shares this watery honor with a number of other personages, some of whom are named in an article from Time magazine which appears on this page. The lonely wanderer may even be puzzled by a Lake Dave Garroway, which for all we know is separated only by a short portage from Lake Daniel D. Mich or Lake Max Shulman.

WE HAVE no doubt that this lake-naming gimmick produces some valuable publicity for Minnesota. We understand that this is intended to be a pleasant variation of the Kentucky Colonel gag and should not be taken too seriously.

But Minnesota lakes, unlike Kentucky colonelcies, last a long time and it is to be hoped that historians will not judge us by names frivolously bestowed, for the sake of some fleeting headlines, on lakes that were intended for the ages.

We should hate to have it asked, 300 years from now, why Lake Dave Garroway was not named Lake Albert Schweitzer or Arnold Toynbee or George Washington Carver. And we should not particularly care to have this era judged by the murmuring waters that lap upon the rocky shores of Lake Arthur Godfrey.

We like Indian names for lakes, or names that have deep roots in Minnesota history, or names that suggest the pungency of pine needles and smoke curling from an open fire. Perhaps we are lacking in imagination, but we detect almost nothing woodsy about Lake Max Shulman nor even—with all due respect to a distinguished contemporary of the New York Times—about Lake Harrison Salisbury. We like Batwing lake and Hoof lake and Bear Track lake and Mud Turtle lake and Kah-shahpiwi lake and so too, we think, will generations of Minnesotans yet unborn.

MINNESOTA still has hundreds of unnamed lakes. There isn't much danger that Gov. Freeman will use them all up as he names them, with an assist from the department of business development, in honor of various newsmen and newsmakers.

But even conceding that this is a genial sort of gag, we think it has been carried about far enough. Our children and our grandchildren deserve the very best of lake names. Let us never ask them to portage from Lake Liz Taylor to Lake Mike Todd on their way, for a wilderness vacation, to a cabin on Lake Elsa Maxwell.

JDH

General Conserp.



STATE OF MINNESOTA
DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION
SAINT PAUL 1

March 18, 1958

Mr. Ralph D. Casey, Director
School of Journalism
University of Minnesota
Minneapolis 14, Minnesota

Dear Mr. Casey:

I have your letter of March 14 and note your suggestion that an unnamed Minnesota lake be designated as Lake Pinkerton in honor of Roy Pinkerton of the Ventura Star-Free Press of Ventura, California, and his mother.

I shall be glad to refer this suggestion of yours to the Minnesota Geographic Board which has the responsibility of naming lakes and other bodies of water.

Very truly yours

George A. Selke
Commissioner of Conservation

mm
CC/ R.W.Fridley ✓

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA
COLLEGE OF SCIENCE, LITERATURE, AND THE ARTS
MINNEAPOLIS 14

SCHOOL OF JOURNALISM

RECEIVED
Department of Conservation
Administration
MAR 17 1958

March 14, 1958

Mr. George A. Selke
Department of Conservation Commissioner
337 State Office Building
St. Paul, Minnesota

Dear Mr. Selke:

I have noted with a great deal of interest the fact that state officials have named certain lakes in the state in honor of outstanding newspapermen and other media personalities.

If you still have a few attractive unnamed lakes I would like to suggest designating one of these as Lake Pinkerton in honor of Roy Pinkerton, editor of the Ventura Star-Free Press of Ventura, California, and his mother, Hattie May Newton (Pinkerton). This is a pioneer family in Minnesota and Mrs. Pinkerton was born in the state in 1859 and lived here continuously until her death in 1955. Roy Pinkerton, the editor, was born in Minnesota and has had a distinguished record as a journalist on the Pacific Coast following his removal *from Minnesota* to Tacoma, Washington.

I wrote to Roy Pinkerton, who is a long-time friend of mine, and asked him for his mother's biography and his own. I am enclosing a copy of his response.

Cordially,

Ralph D. Casey
Ralph D. Casey
Director

RDC:ho
enclosure

c
o
p
y

VENTURA COUNTY STAR-FREE PRESS

567 East Santa Clara Street
P.O. Box 171
Ventura, California

March 11, 1958

Dear Ralph:

I am writing you in response to the information about the naming of Minnesota lakes.

My mother, Hattie May Newton was born at Lake City, Minn., on May 20, 1859, which pretty soon will be a century ago. She lived here, as you perhaps will remember, until her death in September, 1955.

Her father was Willis Jones Newton, a farmer. How long he and his wife had then been in Minnesota I do not know, but I have a notion they had lived there for some time because I believe that both mother's brother and sister who were older had been born in Lake City.

Mother taught school in Lake City or nearby for a period. She was married on Dec. 25, 1882, to my father at the home of her parents who were then living in Crookston. I was born in the same house, my grandparents', on June 28, 1885. Very shortly afterwards, I emigrated with father and mother to Lakota, N. D., where father was in the farm machinery business until late in 1900. At that time we moved to Tacoma, Wash., where he engaged in the retail grocery business. I finished my high school work in Tacoma and later got an A.B. at the University of Washington in 1911.

On surveying the above data, I'm impressed by the fact that my own personal citizenship in Minnesota appears to be very transitory. At least, I was born there and have an actual birth certificate to prove it, but if you add in my mother's record and that of the two grandparents, both of whom I remember as a child, it adds up to quite a lot of years. If that's worth even a small number among those 10,000 lakes, well, gosh, I think my own kids and grandkids would be tremendously impressed and Minnesota-conscious.

Sincerely,

(signed) Roy



STATE OF MINNESOTA
DEPARTMENT OF HIGHWAYS
ST. PAUL 1, MINN.

December 17, 1959

Bd Camp.
*These are on the list
of "problem" lakes to be
considered.*

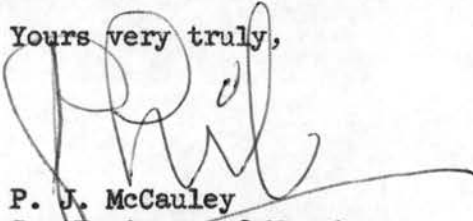
Mrs. June Holmquist
Minnesota Board of Geographic Names
Historical Society Building
St. Paul, Minnesota

Dear Mrs. Holmquist:

The Supervisor for the U.S. Forest Service in Duluth has requested our Assistant District Engineer, Mr. Vic Benson of Duluth, to assist in having the name of two lakes changed from Twin Lakes to one in Section 10 named Laurel Lake and one in Sections 15 and 16 named Mistletoe Lake, both in Township 61 North, Range 3 West, Cook County and have same shown on the county maps and on the state maps.

Therefore, will you please place this on the agenda and see that it is brought up for consideration at the next formal meeting which will be held in Doctor Selke's office on Thursday, December 31st.

Yours very truly,


P. J. McCauley
Sr. Engineer of Mapping

PJM:kh

I have Map

LAKE COUNTY

1. Organ Lake or Little Frear Lake (Not: Heart) T. 61 N., R. 6 W., Sec. 24, 25. (37 acres)

NOTE: This lake is known both as Heart Lake and Little Frear Lake. The name Heart is used for two other lakes in Superior National Forest. Both of these are also in Lake County. The name proposed by the U.S. Forest Service (Organ Lake) retains some association with the present one, since the heart is an organ of the body. In the published Gazetteer of Meandered Lakes of Minnesota and on many maps, this body of water appears as Little Frear Lake. In order to reduce duplication and confusion, the Minnesota Geographic Board would like to know which of these two names (Organ or Little Frear) would be preferred locally.

2. Towhey Lake (not Twohey, Towney, Green, nor Divide) T. 59 N., R. 7 W., sec. 7, 8 (64.7 acres).

To reduce confusion it seems advisable to decide upon the correct spelling of this lake name. Was it named for a pioneer settler? What was his full name?

NOTE: There is another Twohey Lake in Superior National Forest (Cook County, T. 60, 61 N., R. 5 W.) The U.S. Forest Service suggests the name Divide Lake for this body of water, since it is located near the continental divide. However, the published Gazetteer of Meandered Lakes of Minnesota gives the name as TOWHEY (not Twohey), and it is so listed on recent Minnesota Highway Department maps.

3. Hogback Lake (Twin Lakes, one of, Upper Twin) T. 60 N., R. 6 W., Sec. 31 N 1/2 (approx. 30 acres)

The Forest Service remarks that "The name Twin in various forms is used for seven other lakes in or near Superior National Forest." Three of these are also in Lake County. "The proposed name comes from a gravel ridge or hogback to the south of this lake." Is Hogback Lake a pleasing and desirable name for this feature? See next case.

4. Canal Lake (Twin Lakes, one of) T. 60 N., R. 6 W., SWNE Sec. 31 (approx. 20 acres)

See case 3 above. The Forest Service says, "The proposed name comes from a canal dug between the lakes during logging operations." These two bodies of water might well be given similar names since they are currently known as Twin Lakes.

5. Summit Lake (Big Mud) T. 57 N., R. 11 W., Secs. 3, 10 (172 acres)

Mud is much duplicated in the state. The Forest Service proposed this name because "This lake is near the crest or 'summit' of the divide."

NOTE: The proposed name is, however, duplicated in Cottonwood, Kandiyohi, Murray, and Nobles counties. The Board might consider other appropriate names such as Divide or Crest Lake. Is this a clear water lake?

6. Hide Lake (Bearskin Lake) T. 60 N., R. 9 W., Secs. 7, 18.

The Forest Service states, "There is another Bearskin Lake in T. 64, 65 N., R. 1 W., and East Bearskin is in T. 64 N., R. 1 E. The proposed name retains some of the general meaning of the present name but reduces duplication of Bearskin."

NOTE: We have been unable to locate a Bearskin Lake in the location given. According to the county engineer this is known as John Lake, but the name Beetle Lake was approved by both the Minnesota Geographic Board and the United States Board on Geographic Names for this and the adjoining lake in 1941. Does usage now indicate a separate name for this feature? If so, it should not be called John Lake, for there are seven other John lakes in the county.

7. Wildwood Lake (Clearwater, Clear Water Lake) T. 62 N., R. 9, 10 W., Secs. 5, 6, 7, 8, 1, 12 (474 acres)

The Forest Service remarks: "The name Clearwater is used for 3 other lakes in or near the Superior N.F. Locations: T. 62 N., R. 1 E. (Lit. Clearwater); T. 65 N., R. 1 E. and T. 59 N., R. 21 W. This lake is in the roadless area, hence the proposed name Wildwood." NOTE: The proposed name is duplicated in Clearwater County. Other appropriate names?

8. Bigsby Lake (Toe) T. 65 N., R. 6 W., Sec. 16.

The Forest Service says: "There is another Toe Lake in T. 67 N., R. 13 W. J. J. Bigsby was Secretary of the International Commission which defined the boundary between the U.S. and Canada." NOTE: The suggested name is well established for a lake in Superior N.F. T. 61 N., R. 2, 3 W., Sec. 30, 31, 36, and cannot be used here. Other appropriate names for Toe Lake?

COOK COUNTY

Topper Lake (South Round) T. 65 N., R. 2 W., Sec. 27 (120 acres)

The Forest Service suggests that "The present name indicates another Round Lake to the north, but there is none. Round is a commonly duplicated name. The lake is on the highlands near the divide, hence the proposed name, Topper."
NOTE: The lake is located immediately south of the boundary waters of South Lake. Sufficient justification for change?

Willow Lake (Long) T. 62 N., R. 3 W., Sec. 8, 9, 10, 16, 17 (162.5 acres)

The Forest Service suggests this change because "There are 11 other Long Lakes in or near the Superior N.F. The proposed name (Willow) is not duplicated in the N.F. and comes from the tree growth near the lake."

NOTE: The proposed name is, however, widely duplicated in the state in Chippewa, Hubbard, Itasca (2), Pine (2), Redwood, and Murray counties. Since Long Lake is one of the most frequently duplicated names in the state, the Board might consider other appropriate names for this lake.

Ron Lake (Little Round Lake, West Round, Cap) T. 65 N., R. 4 W., Sec. 33
(73.7 acres)

The Forest Service says "This name is listed on various maps as Little Round, West Round, or erroneously as Cap Lake. It seems desirable to give the feature an official name to reduce confusion. There are numerous Round Lakes in the state. The proposed name (Ron) is the French word for round."

NOTE: This name appears on many maps and in the Board's records as CAP LAKE. What is the name in use? Is Cap Lake erroneous for this feature?

B.L.
December 29, 1960

Dear Phil --

Enclosed is the list of "problem" lakes left over from the last meeting of the Geographic Board. I went over these with Judge Magney as the board suggested, but he was not very helpful. The red marks in the margin represent Mr. Selke's and Mr. Fridley's votes on these lakes. Will you indicate whether or not you agree and return this list to me, please.

The sum of it is that, if you vote affirmatively, the Board will approve five lakes on this list; disapprove and return to the Forest Service for further study the remaining six here listed.

Best wishes for a very happy 1961!

Best regards,

Mrs. June D. Holmquist
Associate Editor

April 26, 1961

Mr. Sidney A. Frellsen, Director
Minnesota Division of Waters
Centennial Office Bldg.
St. Paul 1, Minnesota

Dear Mr. Frellsen:

We have just learned that the United States Board on Geographic Names on April 13, 1961, approved the following Minnesota name changes:

Des Moines Lake: horseshoe-shaped lake less than 1 mile long, about 0.8 mile west of Turtle Lake and about 9 miles north of Bemidji; named for Des Moines, Iowa; Beltrami County, Minnesota; SW $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ sec. 20, and NW $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ sec. 29, T. 148 N., R. 33 W., fifth principal meridian; 47°57' N., 94°53' W. Not: Horseshoe Lake, Lake Horseshoe.

Hole-in-the-Day Lake: lake about 0.9 mile long, just east of Gull Lake and west of Lake Hubert and within corporate limits of Nisswa; named for Hole-in-the-Day, a Chippewa Indian chief who was associated with the early history of Crow Wing County; Crow Wing County, Minnesota; secs. 23, 24, 25, and 26, T. 135 N., R. 29 W., fifth principal meridian; 46°29'00" N., 94°17'35" W. Not: Mud Lake.

Sincerely,

Mrs. June D. Holmquist, Deputy Sec.
Minnesota Geographic Board
Minnesota Historical Society

JDH/th



STATE OF MINNESOTA
DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION
SAINT PAUL 1

August 10, 1961

Mrs. Mamie Gillen
613 5th Avenue North
Bayport, Minnesota
Box 354

Re: O-W.R.I.
Names of Lakes

Dear Madam:

This is in response to your letter of July 27, 1961, inquiring about the locations of Garroway and Bailey Lakes.

We have inquired of all departments which it is believed would have some knowledge of that but have been unable to find anything definite.

It is generally believed that the actions of naming the lakes were undertaken as promotional stunts to give national publicity to the state and its many lakes.

The State Geographic Board has indicated that it was not done in accordance with state law in either case and so the names have no legal status.

It is the policy of the Conservation Department to consider all lakes public unless a court of law has held them to be private.

We regret not having been able to give you the location of the lakes. However, if the information is later found we will try to pass it on to you.

Yours very truly,

Sidney A. Frelsen, Director

Sidney A. Frelsen
Division of Waters

CC- James Clark, Commissioner
Bureau of Research and Development

Mrs. June Holmquist
c/o State Geological Board

JME:ms

General Ed. Long

August 16, 1961

Russ

For your information

A Mr. Ross from the Division of Waters has been in a number of times in recent weeks asking about the operation, functions, etc. of the State Geographic Board. I haven't been able to figure out what his "angle" is, but he tells me that he is concerned because the U.S. Geological Survey is working its way through the state; that the Survey's maps will be the standard record for years to come; and that the Survey's engineers are not always conscientious about finding out and using the "correct" lake name or the name in use in the area. He seems to feel that the Survey will create even greater confusion in the state's lake names, and that -- in some way not entirely clear to me -- the State Board should act to prevent this.

I've told him (1) what "activating" the State Board would involve (that it has no funds, personnel, etc. and that its records are not finished) (2) that if he wishes to prepare cases for the lakes that concern him I would present them to the Board.

He seems to feel that there might be some way of securing funds and/or personnel to "activate" the Board. Whether he is merely dreaming on his own, fishing for some reason, or what I don't know, but thought I'd best advise you of him in case he or someone else turns up on your doorstep about the matter.

June

DEPARTMENT Conservation - Waters

Office Memorandum

TO : Mr. Clarence Prout, Commissioner

DATE: 10-19-61

FROM : Mr. Sidney A. Frelisen, Director 

SUBJECT: Topographic Maps, Lake Names, Minnesota Board of Geographic Names.

A review of the files of this division and interviews with Mrs. June Holmquist, Minnesota Historical Society, relating to the above subject are the basis for the following discussion and comment.

Personnel of this division have reviewed preliminary topographic quadrangle maps received from Rolla, Missouri, for possible errors of hydrographic features or the naming thereof and other errors.

It was noted that in reviewing local county maps or vicinity maps compiled by other agencies, public and private, that lake and island names are not consistent and differ from any one of the several names which appear in references on file in this office.

The U.S. Forest Service has, for years, been attempting to name each lake in the Superior National Forest. Names have been submitted to the State Board of Geographic Names; some names have been adopted by the Board and many rejected. Names have been suggested by the U. S. Forest Service that are not being readily accepted by local residents according to Jerome Kuehn, Section of Research and Planning, Division of Game and Fish.

The U.S. Geographic Board, which includes in its membership a representative of each of the map-making bureaus of the government was created by President Harrison in 1890 for the primary purpose of bringing about uniform usage of geographic nomenclature throughout the executive departments.

The U.S. Government Organization Manual, 1957-1958, states that "the Board of Geographic Names was established July 25, 1947 to provide uniformity in geographic nomenclature and orthography throughout the federal government. Subject to approval of the Secretary of the Interior, it formulates principles, policies and procedures with reference to domestic and foreign geographic names and decides standard names and their orthography".

Minnesota Statutes, Sections 378.01-.06, enacted by the Legislature in 1925, govern the manner in which the names of lakes and streams are to be confirmed or changed.

The State Board of Geographic Names, or 15 or more legal voters residing within the county where the body of water is located may petition the County Board to name unnamed or change the names of lakes, rivers, streams or other bodies of water. A name may not be changed which has existed for 40 years.

Mr. Prout
Topographic Maps, etc.

Oct. 19, 1961

Minnesota Statutes, Section 378.05 implies that the Director of the Division of Waters is to know the names of the lakes, rivers, streams and other bodies of water within the state.

The State Geographic Board was established by the Legislature in 1937 and operates under Minnesota Statutes, Sections 354.01-354.4. The powers and duties of the Minnesota Board of Geographic names stated briefly are: to determine the correct and most appropriate names of lakes, streams, places and other geographic features in the state and the spelling thereof, publish an official dictionary and to cooperate on this program with county boards and the U.S. Board of Geographic Names. The names determined are to be the officially recognized name.

County boards are required to have the written approval of the State Geographic Board to change the names of geographic features.

Minnesota Statutes, Sections 354 and 378 cite three authorities for geographic names, which are the State Board of Geographic Names, the Director of the Division of Waters and the County Register of Deeds.

The State Highway Department has personnel in the County Highway Map Section whose duties are, in part, to revise the hydrographic features and names to agree with the most recent or most reliable information. Problems encountered most frequently by the staff, according to Mr. Richard Schultz, whom this writer interviewed, was in lake names, stream names and village boundaries. The Highway Department field checks the county highway maps. The maps are revised approximately once in five years. Names of geographic features are not investigated by field crews unless specifically requested by supervisors.

The Highway Department has agreed to use two preference lists of maps and historical literature for authority in naming lakes and streams.

Several reports of the work of the State Geographic Board were prepared. It is evident from them that the board hoped that its work would progress to the point whereby the laws establishing the board would be completely fulfilled and a gazetteer of state geographic names would be published.

The Master Map of the State Board of Geographic Names which is composed of a set of county maps prepared in 1937 by the State Highway Department is not kept up-to-date. It is not known when decisions of the state and national boards ceased to be placed on the Master Map.

During the early days of the board, cards of many lakes were prepared with the assistance of Works Project Administration personnel. The cards listed the location and different names with references which would be helpful in determining the most suitable name for the lakes.

The Historical Society has carried the administrative function of the board since its beginning. It has cooperated with county boards and the U.S. Board of Geographic Names when changing some lake or stream names, but due to lack of funds has not been able to determine the correct names

Mr. Prout
Topographic Maps, etc.

October 19, 1961

for lakes which have more than one name, or determine names for lakes for which state records show no name, or to publish a dictionary of geographic names.

A budget request, providing for a biennial appropriation of \$5,000 to carry on the work of the board, was presented to the 1943 legislature, but no appropriation was made at that time or since.

Knowledge of the names is important to the administrative functions of government. One name and the correct spelling of that name eliminates confusion and saves time in the administration of the public waters.

The naming of lakes, if unnamed, is important to local residents. For instance, some residents of Chisago County in October of 1959 desired that a name be given to a cutoff bay of Chisago Lake because "it was unnamed". It should be named in order to identify it and such identification would serve a useful purpose for local residents, as well as people from outside the vicinity who are traveling in the area. Naming of the lake would provide a tool for advertising the lake. Advertising by township and range lines, section numbers and government lot numbers has little appeal.

It is implied under Minnesota Statutes, Section 84.54, entitled, Additional Powers and Duties for the Department of Conservation, that the Commissioner of Conservation has an advertising function. The chapter states, in part, that the Commissioner of Conservation will collect and arrange statistics and other information in reference to lands and special resources of the state, and its advantages as a place of residence, spread knowledge of the same throughout the civilized world by correspondence, messenger and public lectures and legitimate advertisement.

Within the Conservation Department, all five divisions would benefit from the publication of a gazetteer of geographic names, primarily, lake names. The Department of Highways, as well as other departments of the state would also benefit from the lessened confusion in lake names.

The Iron Range Resources and ^{Rehabilitation} ~~Recreation~~ Commission and the Department of Business Development who are concerned with tourist trade development are interested in renaming unattractively names lakes such as Mud, Swamp, Sandwich, Ham, Egg, Potato, Stinking, Dead Fish, Dead Horse, Dead Man, Pigs Eye, and Dirty Nose.

The Division of Waters, in order to establish a single name for each lake within the state, supports a broad program relating to all phases of the activities of the State Geographic Board significant to administrative, historical, residential and tourist development interests, as well as to those of other agencies, organizations, and individuals to the end that the lake name program may be developed for the greatest benefit of all concerned. It may be necessary to define for such a re-

October 19, 1961

cord the characteristics that lakes, swamps, sloughs or ponds must have to be so designated and classified.

The following suggestions are made for the improvement of the lake name program:

1. The state board could be staffed with an executive secretary and other necessary administrative assistants. The state board funds could be supplied by the legislature, cities or other interested departments and agencies who would contribute funds for the administrative work of the board.
2. The three departments represented on the State Geographic Board could more actively cooperate in an effort to establish a single correct name for each lake. The Division of Waters and the State Highway Department now are cooperating in the use of a uniform system to decide on the names for lakes which have more than one name. Some private companies make maps of local areas for tourist trade development, but no effort is made to ascertain the correct names for lakes shown on these maps which are not named on state maps. In other words, many formerly unnamed lakes have been named or shown on private or county maps and no effort is made to establish what, how, or by whom the lake was named and to show the name on state maps and records.
3. The lake name program could be assigned to the Division of Waters by legislative transfer of the records and functions of the board. The decisions of lake names could be made by the Commissioner of Conservation, and the other two commissioners, based upon the recommendations of this division. Research for the lake names could be carried on in a manner similar to that presently used by this division. A gazetteer of waters (in preparation for several years) could incorporate a brief resume of historical data concerning the lake names and the correct name. A more intensive effort could be made to find the lake names used by local residents for lakes which are not named. This would result in the expansion of the state board's files with the help of persons actively concerned with the public waters or lake names in the administration thereof when engaged in surveys or the preparation of new maps. Cooperation with the State Highway Department would necessarily be required for the naming of unnamed lakes when names are ascertained by their field crews checking their county maps.

Maps could be obtained from county highway engineers, auditors and private map-making agencies for the establishment of the most suitable name for lakes.

Mr. Prout
Topographic Maps, etc.

October 19, 1961

Federal agencies are reluctant to use state board approved names until they are adopted by the U. S. Board of Geographic Names. It would be necessary for this division to present the names for approval to the U.S. Board of Geographic Names.

The Division of Waters is involved but does not have either information or authority substantial enough to insist upon the U.S. Geological Survey changing names incorrectly shown on quadrangle maps to conform to Division of Waters' usage.

Under the existing situation in which Minnesota appropriates \$50,000. or more annually for the production of topographic maps of the state, it seems to have an ineffective system of controlling the data which appears on them.

RECOMMENDATION

In view of the foregoing information it is recommended that legislation be drafted to amend M.S. 1957, Sections 373.01 to 373.06 and 354.01 to 354.04 to make the Minnesota Board of Geographic Names an advisory board to a single state agency (the Division of Waters) and this agency be made responsible for coordinating geographic functions with full authority to deal with federal agencies in matters of this kind.

EHR:ms

October 20, 1961

Brand Corp

Minnesota Historical Society

Governor Elmer L. Andersen

Russell W. Fridley

Naming Minnesota Lakes

I have just received a copy of your memorandum to Commissioner Prout regarding the practice of naming Minnesota Lakes after distinguished personages a couple of years ago. Perhaps I can clarify the reasons why this practice was abandoned.

It is a hard and fast rule of the National Geographic Board, which is the ultimate authority in approving the naming of lakes and geographical features, that no lakes or geographical features be named after living persons. The state Geographic Board has also followed this rule since its inception.

The program for naming a group of lakes after living persons developed out of the Department of Business Development without any knowledge or approval of the State Geographic Board. Apparently it was regarded as a promotional scheme with little concern about the perpetuation of the names for the group of lakes concerned. When the State Geographic Board learned of this development the board's chairman at the time - Dr. Selke - informed the Department of Business Development that the practice was strictly illegal and invalid to the rules of both the state and national boards. Consequently, the plan was abandoned.

This is not to indicate that the State Geographic Board is unreceptive to suggestions to naming un-named lakes after persons who are deceased. In fact such names have served as a major source for naming lakes in the past.

There are hundreds of un-named lakes in Minnesota, a representative list of them will be formulated and sent to you as soon as possible.

cc: Comm. J. A. Marshall, Highway
Comm. Clarence Prout, Conservation



STATE OF MINNESOTA
DEPARTMENT OF HIGHWAYS

ST. PAUL 1, MINN.

November 20, 1961

Mrs. June D. Holmquist, Deputy to
Russell W. Fridley, Secretary
Minnesota Geographic Board
Minnesota Historical Society
St. Paul 1, Minnesota

Dear Mrs. Holmquist:

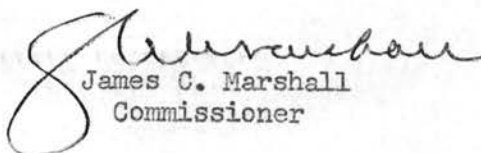
Thank you for your letter of November 8 calling my attention to the fact that no one in this department has been designated to deal with your board since the death of Mr. Philip McCauley.

I am designating Mr. Carl Odquist, who is in charge of the Planning Survey Unit of our Planning Research Section, to be this department's representative on the Geographic Board.

I am forwarding the material which you enclosed to him, and you may expect to receive information regarding it shortly.

Yours very truly,

DEPARTMENT OF HIGHWAYS


James C. Marshall
Commissioner



STATE OF MINNESOTA
DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION
SAINT PAUL 1

February 21, 1962

Mr. Daniel Kennedy
Central District Engineer
U.S. Geological Survey
Rolla, Missouri

Re: Gazetteer of Waters
Inventory of Minnesota Streams

Dear Sir:

This will acknowledge receipt of your letter of February 15, 1962, regarding the above subject and the enclosed booklet on geographic names. The Division uses an extract, pages 17 to 29, from the Sixth Report of the U.S. Geographic Board, 1933, in determining standards and criteria for geographic names.

Our objective is to avoid unnecessary duplication and assure that the names submitted for decisions are names that conform with the policy and procedure of the U.S. Board of Geographic Names. A letter has been sent to Mr. J. O. Kilmartin, Domestic Names Committee, outlining our procedure and soliciting his comments.

It would be helpful if you would supply this office with copies of the field reports which verify the names of streams for all of the areas for which topographic quadrangle maps have been published. This perhaps would constitute a substantial amount of data. We anticipate requesting this information for selected areas as our inventory progresses but only stream name reports for the published quadrangles in Houston, Fillmore, Winona, Mower and Dodge counties are needed at this time. The information supplied by your office will be submitted to both the State and Federal Geographic Boards for approval.

We note that many streams are unnamed on the published quadrangles in Minnesota but are not certain whether this is because there are no known names for these streams or because they fail to meet other criteria as to size of drainage area or different limitations which you may impose.

Minnesota Statutes, Chapter 354, establishes the State Geographic Board and authorizes it to determine the correct and most appropriate names of lakes, streams, places and other geographic features in the state and the spelling thereof. The Board may give names to streams for which no single, generally accepted name has been in use. The

Mr. Daniel Kennedy
Re: Gazetteer of Waters,
Inventory of Minnesota Streams

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Board may also change the names of streams in order to eliminate duplication.

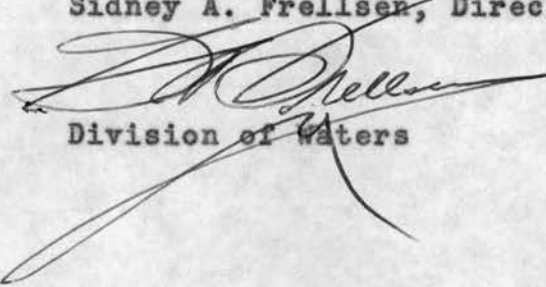
Minnesota Statutes, Chapter 378.01-378.06, sets up the procedure to be followed in changing the name of a lake or stream. This is done largely through action at the local level with final approval by the Board.

The Division in connection with its activities related to the water resources of the state is currently engaged in a project to name the streams of the state and legally establish the names.

Your cooperation is solicited and will be appreciated.

Yours very truly,

Sidney A. Frellsen, Director



Division of Waters

GHH:ds

cc: Clarence Prout
James C. Marshall
✓ Russell Fridley

February 21, 1962

Mr. J. O. Kilmartin
Executive Secretary
Domestic Geographic Names
U. S. Dept. of the Interior
Washington 25, D. C.

Re: Gazetteer of Waters
Inventory of Minnesota Streams

Dear Sir:

The Division of Waters in cooperation with the State Geographic Board is reviewing the names of streams in Minnesota. Mrs. June Holmquist of the Minnesota Historical Society suggested that the Division obtain your advice on certain aspects of the project.

Many streams in the state are designated on various maps as "branches" or "forks" of a main stream. The division would like to ascertain if the U. S. Board would consider changes in these names to conform with the criteria and standards of the U. S. Board on Geographic Names as listed in the Sixth Report of the Board, 1933. What is the procedure used by the U. S. Board regarding the use of "forks" or "branches?"

Duplication of stream names occurs frequently, often counties have several streams with the same name, such as Beaver Creek, Trout Creek, etc. The division will propose new names whenever a check of historical records discloses that reasonable doubt exists regarding the name. Each stream will be considered individually and all available maps and records will be checked. Whenever several streams in the same general drainage basin or county have the same name and although records support these names, an attempt will be made, with approval of local authorities, to give at least one of the streams a more distinctive name.

The reference material on names of Minnesota streams consists of county atlases and histories. Only a few old government maps are available. Reliable local sources of information other than those noted are scarce. Local usage is often conflicting in that several names are used.

The present procedure in selecting stream names is to check all available historical data in the files of the Division of Waters and the State Historical Society. This information is tabulated and names are selected based on the predominant recurrence in published literature and on maps. Many of the references antedate 1900 - others are more recent. After names have been selected, a county map showing the names and location of the streams is prepared. Counties then are given

J. O. Kilmartin
U.S. Dept. of Interior

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opportunity for inspection and comment through the county engineers, historians and other public officials. After the map and list of names is returned to the division, changes are made as required and the matter is referred to the Minnesota Geographic Board for appropriate action. The division proposes to follow the foregoing procedure until the stream names in all 87 counties have been processed.

Please send a supply of Forms 9-1343, Domestic Geographic Name Proposal and Form 9-1344, Proposal of Name for an Unnamed Domestic Feature. (About 1,000 each).

Your comments and suggestions will be greatly appreciated.

Yours very truly,

Sidney A. Frellsen, Director

Division of Waters

GHH:lt

cc: Clarence Prout, Commissioner

James C. Marshall, Commissioner of Highways,
Attn: Carl Odquist

✓ Russell Fridley, Director
Minnesota Historical Society

February 13, 1963

Mrs. Maretta McDonald
Commissioner's Office
Conservation Department

Dear Mrs. McDonald:

At long last, here are the sample cards for the Minnesota Geographic Board files which we discussed some time ago. If you will let me know when you wish to begin in the board's work, we will pull some cards so that you may start.

With best regards,

Mrs. June D. Holmquist
Associate Editor

JDH/th
encl.

MEMORANDUM
from the office of
COMMISSIONER OF CONSERVATION

Date February 15, 1963

To Mrs. June D. Holmquist
Minnesota Historical Society

Dear Mrs. Holmquist:

Received your letter of February 13 and the sample cards.

There are two of us in the office again, so you may send the cards over any time you wish.

Sincerely

Maritta McDonald
Maritta McDonald

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2-19-63

MEMORANDUM
from the office of
COMMISSIONER OF CONSERVATION

Date March 8, 1963

To Mrs. June D. Holmquist
Minnesota Historical Society

Dear Mrs. Holmquist:

I am returning the first batch of these cards.
I hope they are correct. I did not see these lakes
in the U. S. Decisions.

Sincerely,

M. E. McDonald
Maritta McDonald

MEMORANDUM

from the office of

COMMISSIONER OF CONSERVATION

Date March 20, 1963

To Mrs. June D. Holmquist
Minnesota Historical Society

Dear Mrs. Holmquist:

I am returning the January - April 1961, U. S.
Decisions Book and the cards for the streams.

I talked with Phyllis yesterday, in your absence,
about the location of Puutio Creek. She thought
this was the way she did it. I hope these cards
are correct.

Sincerely


Maritta McDonald

MEMORANDUM
from the office of
COMMISSIONER OF CONSERVATION

Date June 12, 1963

To Mrs. June D. Holmquist
Minnesota Historical Society

Dear Mrs. Holmquist:

Now that the session is over I have had a little time to work on the Geographic material. I am returning the May - August, 1961, U. S. Decisions Book. The card I made are also enclosed. It has been sometime since I worked on these, and I hope I did not forget anything.

Sincerely

Maritta McDonald
Maritta McDonald

INDIANA BOARD ON GEOGRAPHIC NAMES

ROOM 606 STATE OFFICE BUILDING
INDIANAPOLIS 4, INDIANA

PH. MELROSE 3-5267

June 13, 1963

Mr. Russell W. Fridley, Secretary
Minnesota Geographic Board
Minnesota Historical Society
St. Paul 1, Minnesota

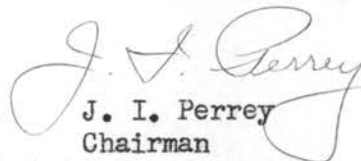
Dear Mr. Fridley:

Herewith is a copy of the Findings of the Indiana Board on Geographic Names for the period May 1961 through June 1962. This is the first of a series of reports that the Indiana Board expects to publish, probably on an annual basis.

The Indiana Board is interested in learning more about the activities of similar boards in other states and will appreciate receiving any information that you may be able to furnish us.

We would like to be placed on your list for an exchange of publications if you make a practice of publishing results of the work of the board in your state.

Very truly yours,


J. I. Perrey
Chairman

JIP:sh

enclosure

June 25, 1963

Mr. J. I. Perrey, Chairman
Indiana Board on Geographic Names
Room 606, State Office Building
Indianapolis 4, Indiana

Dear Mr. Perrey:

On behalf of the Minnesota Geographic Board, may I thank you for the copy of the Indiana Board's Findings for the period May, 1961, through June, 1962. We are happy to have this report for our files, and will appreciate receiving copies of any similar reports you may issue in the future. A mimeographed compilation of the Minnesota Board's decisions was issued in 1961 by the state Conservation Department. We have asked that department to furnish you with a copy of the report.

In general, the Minnesota board follows the policies of the U. S. Board on Geographic Names, with whom we work closely. In fact, the state board's decisions are regularly forwarded to the U.S. Board which almost invariably approves them and publishes the results in its many Docket Lists.

If we can be of assistance to you in the future, feel free to write us again.

Very truly yours,

Mrs. June D. Holmquist
Deputy Secretary
Minnesota Geographic Board
Minnesota Historical Society

JDH/th

MEMORANDUM
from the office of
COMMISSIONER OF CONSERVATION

Date June 21, 1963

To Mrs. June D. Holmquist
Minnesota Historical Society

Dear Mrs. Holmquist:

I am just about out of the 3 X 5 buff colored cards and the plain 5 X 8 white cards. If you have some more of these, I would appreciate your sending them to me.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

M. E. McDonald
Maritta McDonald

100 of each sent 6/24/63
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